OCT.
NO. 6

ADVENTURES INTO TERROR

10¢

"RETURN OF THE BRAIN!"

"THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T DIE!"

"YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!"

THE RETURN OF THE BRAIN

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M BACK! I TOLD YOU I WOULD BE! NOTHING CAN DESTROY THE BRAIN! I MAY BE ANYWHERE!.. PROBABLY LURKING RIGHT NEAR YOU AS YOU READ THIS! I HAVE NO BODY... THAT WAS EXECUTED LONG AGO BY THE AMERICAN EXECUTIONERS IN GERMANY! BUT THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE FOR EVIL IN ALL THE WORLD IS STILL ALIVE...THE BRAIN! ...AND I'VE FOUND SOMEONE AT LAST WHO WILL OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND!
RUSS HEATH

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN *ADVENTURES IN TERROR #6*

THERE IS NO NAME FOR WHAT I AM! ONCE I BELONGED TO OTTO VON SCHMITTSDER, THE FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS NAZI SCIENTIST! BUT HE IS DEAD, EXECUTED AS A WAR CRIMINAL / YES...HE IS DEAD...BUT I AM STILL ALIVE... FOR I AM HIS... **BRAIN!**

I LOOKED FOR ONE BODY TO INHABIT... TO WHICH I COULD BRING MY GENIUS...I THOUGHT I HAD FOUND IT IN AN AMERICAN SOLDIER...BUT HE WAS TOO STUPID AND FAILED ME WHEN HE DESTROYED HIMSELF RATHER THAN SERVE ME...THE BRAIN!

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

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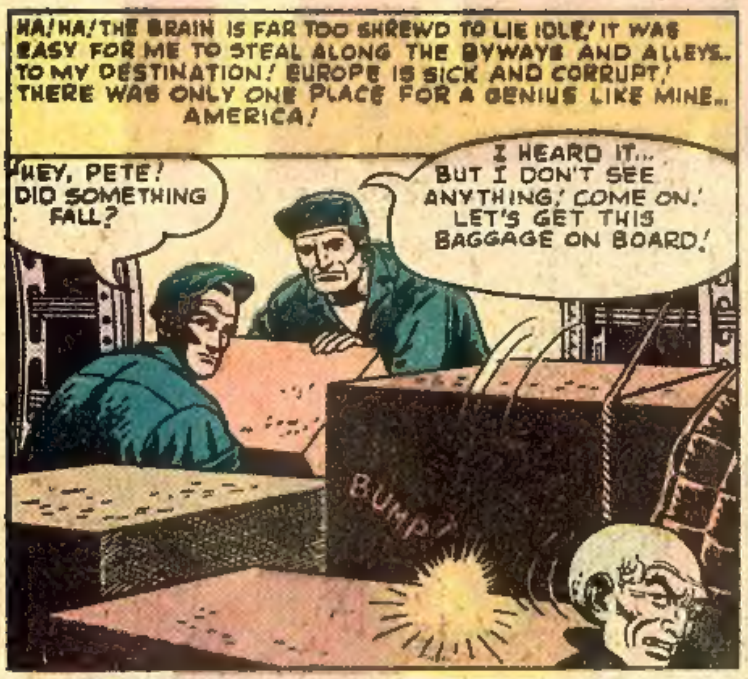
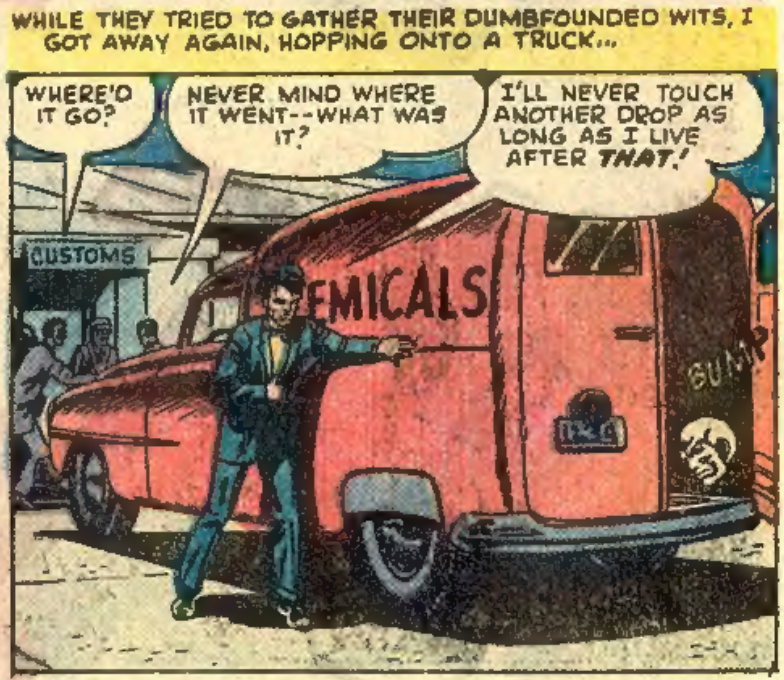

HA! HA! THE BRAIN IS FAR TOO SHREWD TO LIE IDLE! IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO STEAL ALONG THE BYWAYS AND ALLEYS.. TO MY DESTINATION! EUROPE IS SICK AND CORRUPT! THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE FOR A GENIUS LIKE MINE.. AMERICA!
HEY, PETE! DID SOMETHING FALL?
I HEARD IT... BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING! COME ON! LET'S GET THIS BAGGAGE ON BOARD!
BUMP!

WONDERFUL THINGS, THESE BIG TRANSATLANTIC AIRSHIPS! FAST AND ROOMY! PLENTY OF PLACES FOR ME TO HIDE, EXCEPT ONE TIME...
EEEEEE! EDGAR! THAT FACE!
WHAT? WHERE? WHAT?!!

I HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY AFTER THAT INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH I DON'T THINK THAT WOMAN WAS EVER THE SAME AGAIN!
WHY-- WHAT HAPPENED, SIR?
I--I DON'T KNOW! SHE SCREAMED SOMETHING ABOUT A FACE... AND THEN SHE FAINTED! GOOD GRIEF! LOOK AT HER HAIR! IT'S TURNED WHITE!

WE LANDED AT LA GUARDIA FIELD... AND I HAD THE PROBLEM OF GETTING OFF! I SOLVED THAT BY A SIMPLE LITTLE TRICK!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN HERE, MISS?
JUST A HAT! A VERY CUTE NUMBER I PICKED UP IN PARIS! WAIT TILL YOU SEE IT!
U.S. CUSTOMS

AAAAAA! IT'S A HEAD A MOVING, LIVING HEAD!
EEEEEEEH!


WHILE THEY TRIED TO GATHER THEIR DUMBFOUNDED WITS, I GOT AWAY AGAIN, HOPPING ONTO A TRUCK...
WHERE'D IT GO?
NEVER MIND WHERE IT WENT--WHAT WAS IT?
I'LL NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER DROP AS LONG AS I LIVE AFTER THAT!
CUSTOMS
EMICALS
BUMP

LUCK WAS WITH ME...THAT TRUCK WAS HEADED FOR THE ONE PLACE I WANTED TO GO..THE LABORATORY OF GILDA SPEARS, AMERICA'S MOST BRILLIANT, YOUNG, WOMAN SCIENTIST!
HERE ARE YOUR SUPPLIES, MISS SPEARS!
OH, THANK YOU, BOYS! JUST BRING IT IN HERE, WILL YOU?
AH-HA! THIS IS PERFECT... PERFECT!
MORE LUCK..THERE WERE SOME SPECIMENS OF HEADS ON HER SHELVES, MADE OF WAX! I TOOK MY PLACE AMONG THEM AND SIZED UP THE SITUATION...
IF I CAN PROJECT MY GENIUS INTO HER MIND... THEN I CAN MAKE HER DO ANYTHING I WANT HER TO! BUT I MUST BE CAREFUL! IF I EXPOSE MYSELF FOR WHAT I REALLY AM, SHE WILL DESTROY ME! I MUST WILL MYSELF INTO HER MIND... SLOWLY... UNTIL SHE'S COMPLETELY UNDER MY INFLUENCE!
HOURS PASSED.. DAYS.. WEEKS! I BROUGHT ALL THE FORCE OF MY GENIUS TO BEAR UPON HER, CONCENTRATING HARD ON HER BRAIN... SUBJUGATING IT TO MY SUPERIOR WILL!
THAT'S... FUNNY... I FEEL STRANGE...! MY MIND SEEMS TERRIBLY TIRED...
AH! IT'S WORKING AT LAST! NOW IT IS TIME! IT'S TIME!
THOSE TUBES.. THEY'RE FILLED WITH VALUABLE SOLUTIONS BADLY NEEDED BY YOUR COUNTRY! YOU'VE WORKED ON THEM FOR YEARS! DESTROY THEM! DESTROY THEM!
I WANT TO RUIN EVERY-THING! AND WHY NOT? WHY NOT?
NOW SIT DOWN AND WRITE.. WRITE TO THE EMBASSIES OF THE IRON CURTAIN... TELL THEM EVERYTHING YOU KNOW... REVEAL YOUR COUNTRY'S SECRETS! WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!
WHY SHOULD I DO ALL THIS WORK FOR AMERICA? I DON'T GET MUCH MONEY! THE COMMUNISTS WILL PAY ME A LOT MORE!
HA! HA! AT LAST! AT LAST! THE BRAIN HAS FOUND A MIND IT CAN USE AS ITS OWN! NOW AT LAST I WILL REALIZE MY CHERISHED DREAM...TO BRING THE WORLD UNDER THE POWER OF THE BRAIN, USING THIS DUPED FEMALE! HA! HA! HA!

WHEREVER SHE WENT... I FOLLOWED.. WITH MY WILL TELLING HER WHAT TO DO AND WHAT TO SAY!
HERE! EVIDENCE THAT PROFESSOR EMMETT IS A TRAITOR!
EMMETT? BUT HE'S ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS, MISS SPEARS!

BUT HE'S A SPY! HE SOLD ATOM BOMB INFORMATION TO THE IRON CURTAIN!
THIS IS A TERRIBLE SHOCK!
HA! HA! GETTING EMMETT OUT OF THE WAY IS A MASTER STROKE!

THEN, ONE DAY, SHE HAD A VISITOR! THIS WAS F.B.I. AGENT STEVE MANNERS...

GILDA, I'VE KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME! AND YOU KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE TURNED SPY FOR THE IRON CURTAIN!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, STEVE!

I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS! THE LETTERS YOU WROTE TO THE DICTATORS OF THE IRON CURTAIN, GIVING THE RESULTS OF YOUR TESTS! WE INTERCEPTED ALL OF THEM, GILDA!
BLAST HIM FOR A DOLT! I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THIS!

I TOLD THE GOVERNMENT THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN THESE! GILDA, TELL ME THAT THESE ARE A FRAUD!
GILDA... LISTEN... TO ME!!

KILL HIM! KILL HIM! KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
STEVE, YOU'RE ALL EXCITED AND UPSET! LIE DOWN ON THIS TABLE, PLEASE!
ALL RIGHT, DEAR! BUT IT'S JUST TO PROVE THAT I HAVE FAITH IN YOU!

THE FOOL, BLINDED BY HIS LOVE, SUBMITTED TO THE 'EXAMINATION!' I PLANNED A SLOW DEATH FOR HIM AT THE HANDS OF THE BODY THAT WAS CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF MY SUPERIOR GENIUS!
DRAIN HIS BLOOD...! DROP BY DROP...! LET HIM DIE A SLOW LINGERING DEATH!
JUST RELAX, STEVE! RELAX!
KILL HIM... THEN YOU AND I WILL GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WHERE I CAN REALLY USE MY GENIUS! THERE THE MIGHTY BRAIN OF OTTO VON SCHMITTSDER WILL FLOURISH IN ALL ITS GLORY AND IT WILL CONQUER THE WORLD! KILL! KILL! KILL!
WHAT'S THAT? WHOSE VOICE IS THAT?
VOICE? I HEARD NO VOICE! LIE STILL, STEVE!
FOOL THAT I WAS! IN MY EXCITEMENT I FORGOT AND SHOUTED OUT MY ORDERS INSTEAD OF TRANSMITTING THEM BY MENTAL TELEPATHY! MANNERS JUMPED UP, LOOKING FOR ME!
I HEARD SOMEONE ORDERING YOU TO KILL ME! WHO IS IT? WHERE'S HE HIDING?
THERE'S... NO ONE... HERE!
THE SCALPEL, GILDA! TAKE THE SCALPEL AND KILL HIM WITH IT... QUICKLY!
GOOD GRACIOUS! IT'S...IT'S ONE OF THOSE HEADS!
THE SCALPEL! KILL HIM WITH IT, YOU FOOL!
AAAAA!!
YES... YES... I'LL KILL... HIM...!

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I BOUNCED AROUND IN MY FURY, URGING THAT STUPID GIRL TO STRIKE...BUT SOMEHOW SHE HESITATED!

THAT HEAD! IT'S ALIVE! WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS IT?

BUMP!

GIVE ME THAT, GILDA! I'M TAKING CARE OF THAT... THAT *THING*, WHATEVER IT IS!

THEN BEGAN ONE OF THE WEIRDEST CHASES EVER SEEN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! THOUGH HE WAS FRIGHTENED STIFF, STEVE MANNERS GRITTED HIS TEETH AND CAME AFTER ME!

OHHH! MY HEAD! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DEVIL! FIEND! WHATEVER YOU ARE! YOU'VE GOT TO BE DESTROYED!

I TRIED TO USE MY WILL POWER TO QUIET HIM, BUT HIS MIND WAS TOO STRONG! HE KEPT AFTER ME WITH A RELENTLESS FURY...A FURY BORN OF FEAR AND HATE!

SO *YOU'RE* RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS! I'LL FINISH YOU IF I DIE DOING IT!

YES! YES! I'M THE BRAIN! THE MIGHTY BRAIN! I'M TOO SMART FOR YOU ...OR ANYONE!

SUDDENLY I TIPPED OVER A BUNSEN BURNER IN MY MAD FLIGHT AROUND THE ROOM...!

..AND IN A MOMENT THE LAB WAS AN INFERNO OF FIRE AND SMOKE!

GILDA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?

HA! HA! SHE'S FAINTED NOW WE'LL ALL DIE!

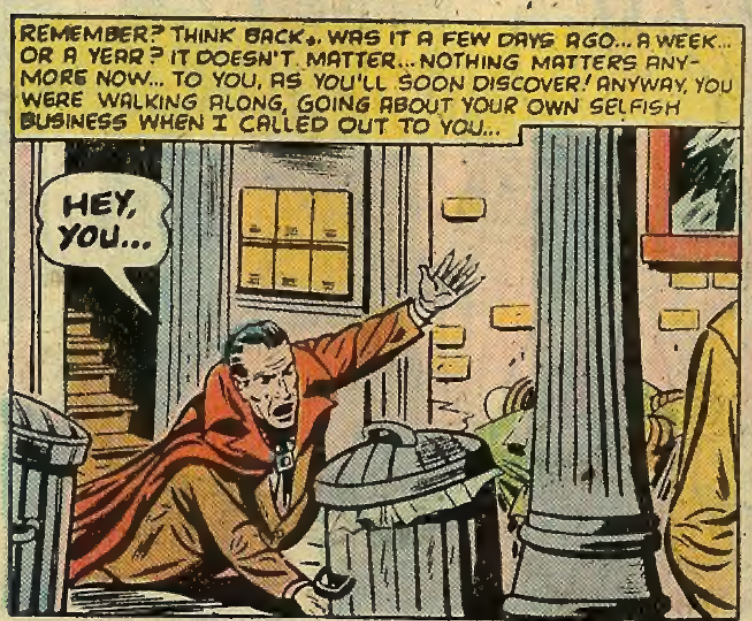
BUT THAT STUPID AMERICAN ACTED QUICKER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR! HE PICKED THE GIRL UP AND RUSHED OUT OF THE BURNING LAB, LEAVING ME TO BURN!
WAIT! DON'T LEAVE ME! A BRAIN AS MIGHTY AS MINE CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS! HELP!
DIE... LIKE THE DEVIL YOU ARE...
BUT THAT WAS JUST MY CUNNING MIND AT WORK AGAIN! YOU SEE, I WANTED HIM TO THINK I WAS HELPLESS! I WANTED HIM TO THINK I WAS DEAD! BUT THE BRAIN CAN NEVER DIE!
I'LL GO SOMEPLACE ELSE...AND FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO OBEY MY WILL!
OUTSIDE GILDA CAME TO AT LAST...
STEVE...OH! WHAT HAPPENED? THE LAB IS ON FIRE...! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DON'T YOU KNOW, DARLING? DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
REMEMBER...? I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ASLEEP A LONG TIME...FOR WEEKS! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IT'S JUST AS WELL YOU DIDN'T KNOW, GILDA! THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT! THE LAB IS DESTROYED!
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND BUILD ANOTHER ONE! I'VE GOT SO MUCH WORK TO DO! THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS ME, STEVE!
YES, DARLING! WE'LL BUILD ANOTHER ONE...NOW THAT THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WAY TO PREVENT YOU!
HA! HA! HE MEANS ME! HE THINKS I'M DEAD! BUT I'M NOT! THE BRAIN IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE...AND I'LL FIND ANOTHER WILLING TOOL SOON...SOMEONE WHO WILL OBEY THE COMMANDS OF MY MIND! BE CAREFUL! BE ON GUARD! I MAY CHOOSE YOU!
THE END
7

DON'T FOOL YOURSELF! YES... YOU! I'M TALKING TO YOU, THE PERSON WHO IS READING THIS AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE

STOP! THIS IS ONLY FOR YOU, BECAUSE I HATE YOU! IF YOU THINK IT'S ONLY A TRICK TO GET YOU TO READ THE STORY, FORGET IT! I HAD THIS WRITTEN, DRAWN AND PRINTED ONLY FOR YOU TO READ! WHAT?? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? HA! HA! WE'LL SEE IF YOU FEEL THE SAME AFTER READING IT! GO AHEAD! READ! IF YOU DARE!!
I WANT YOU TO TREMBLE! I WANT YOU TO SCREAM IN THE AGONY OF A TWISTED FEAR! AND THEN I WANT YOU TO TURN AND LOOK AT ME... IF YOU CAN!
ADVENTURES INTO TERROR COMICS

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN ADVENTURE IN TERROR #6.


REMEMBER? THINK BACK. WAS IT A FEW DAYS AGO... A WEEK... OR A YEAR? IT DOESN'T MATTER... NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE NOW... TO YOU, AS YOU'LL SOON DISCOVER! ANYWAY, YOU WERE WALKING ALONG, GOING ABOUT YOUR OWN SELFISH BUSINESS WHEN I CALLED OUT TO YOU...
HEY, YOU...

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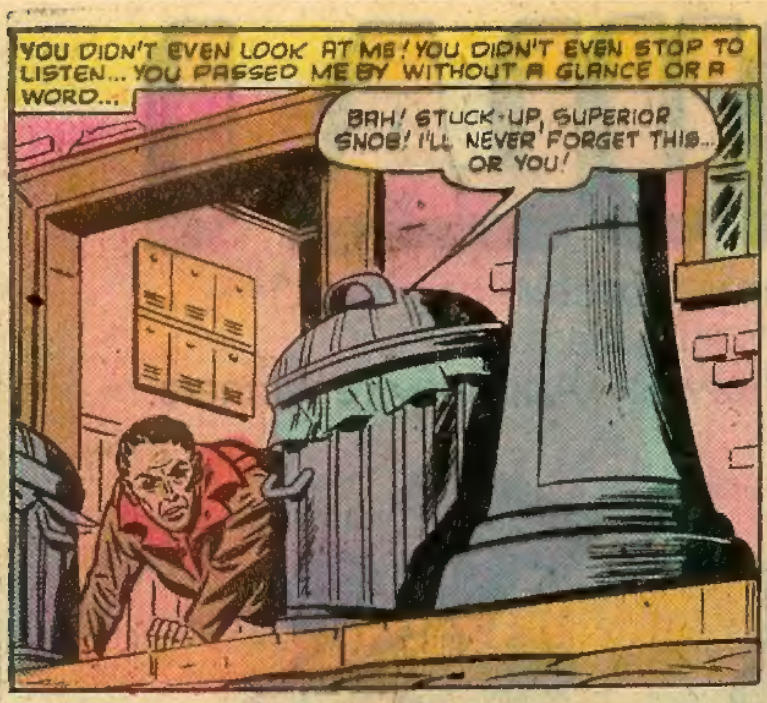
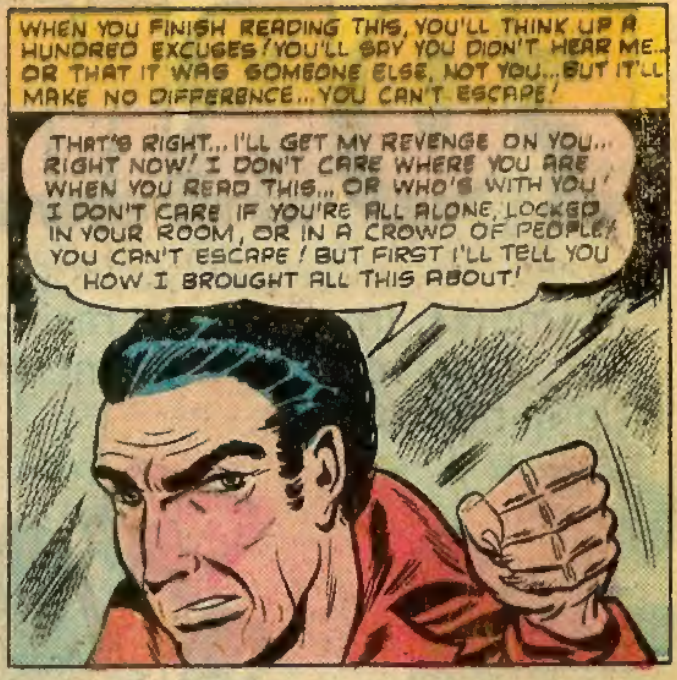

YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME! YOU DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO LISTEN... YOU PASSED ME BY WITHOUT A GLANCE OR A WORD...
BAH! STUCK-UP, SUPERIOR SNOB! I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS... OR YOU!


WHEN YOU FINISH READING THIS, YOU'LL THINK UP A HUNDRED EXCUSES! YOU'LL SAY YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME.. OR THAT IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE, NOT YOU... BUT IT'LL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE... YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
THAT'S RIGHT... I'LL GET MY REVENGE ON YOU... RIGHT NOW! I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU ARE WHEN YOU READ THIS... OR WHO'S WITH YOU! I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE ALL ALONE, LOCKED IN YOUR ROOM, OR IN A CROWD OF PEOPLE! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! BUT FIRST I'LL TELL YOU HOW I BROUGHT ALL THIS ABOUT!

AFTER YOU LEFT ME LYING THERE, I GOT UP... YOU SEE, I WASN'T REALLY SICK! I JUST WANTED TO FIND SOMEBODY I COULD HATE... AND I FOLLOWED YOU...
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU LIVE, EH? OKAY, FRIEND! NOW I'LL GO TO WORK ON YOU!

I HUNG AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT YOU, YOUR HABITS, YOUR TASTES... WHAT YOU LIKED TO READ... INCLUDING WHAT KIND OF COMIC MAGAZINES!
LOOK AT HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT I'M WATCHIN' EVERY MOVE!
TERROR

THEN THE TIME CAME TO ACT! I WENT TO MY ROOM AND WROTE OUT A SCRIPT FOR A COMIC FEATURE...

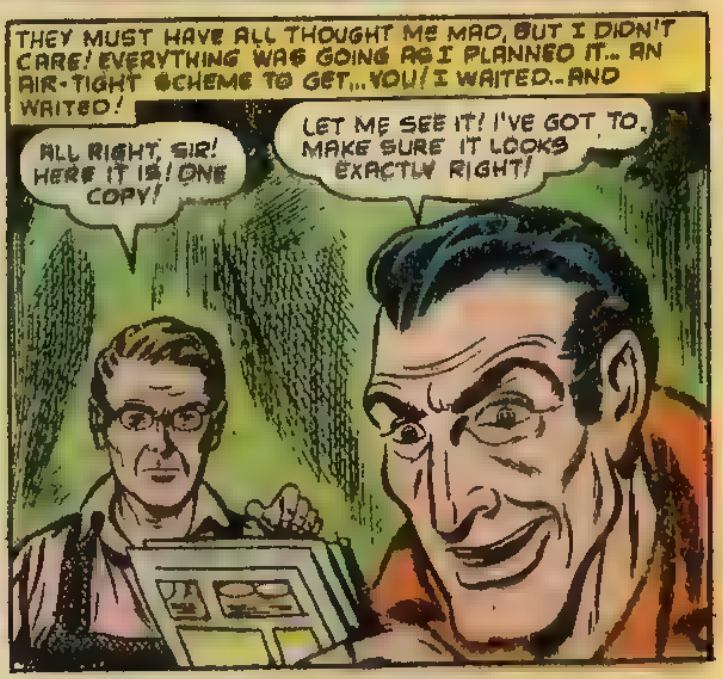
THEN I TOOK IT TO A FRIEND OF MINE, A FELLOW WHO DRAWS FOR THE COMIC MAGAZINES...
YOU WANT ME TO DRAW THIS FOR YOU? BUT THIS IS CRAZY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?
NEVER MIND! JUST DRAW IT UP AS I SAY! I'LL PAY YOU WELL FOR IT!
TERROR

I WANT IT DRAWN EXACTLY IN A CERTAIN STYLE ' CAN YOU DO IT, OR SHALL I GET SOMEBODY ELSE ?
LISTEN, I CAN DO IT OKAY ' BUT I STILL SAY IT'S A CRAZY IDEA '
I WAS AT HIS SIDE NIGHT AND DAY, MAKING SURE HE GOT EVERYTHING DOWN ALL RIGHT ' I FED HIM BLACK COFFEE TO KEEP HIM AWAKE ' I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO GO WRONG '
WHEW ' I'M TIRED '
JUST ANOTHER PAGE TO GO ' GO AHEAD ' DON'T STOP NOW '
HE COLLAPSED WHEN HE WAS THROUGH, BUT NOT I ' I HADN'T EVEN STARTED YET '
THERE...! IT'S DONE!
THANKS, PAL ' AND THERE'S YOUR MONEY '
MY NEXT STEP WAS AN ENGRAVER'S OFFICE ' I HAD STUDIED EVERY PHASE OF THIS PLAN CAREFULLY...
YES, WE CAN MAKE UP PLATES FOR YOU ON THIS '
IN COLOR ' I WANT LOTS OF COLOR ' HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ? I'LL WAIT FOR IT '
HOURS, I'M AFRAID ' WE'LL DELIVER THEM '
NEVER MIND ! HURRY UP AND MAKE 'EM ' I'LL WAIT '
...AND I DID ' I COULDN'T REST, EITHER ! MY MIND WAS TOO ACTIVE, THINKING OF WHAT I HAD PLANNED FOR YOU '
HERE YOU ARE, SIR ! I...
THANK YOU '
3

STEP NUMBER THREE WAS THE PRINTER...
I WANT THIS PRINTED UP ON PAPER EXACTLY LIKE THIS! DO YOU HAVE IT ON HAND... AND IN THIS SIZE?
YES, SIR! WE CAN MAKE UP A DUPLICATE FOR YOU! IT'LL TAKE THREE WEEKS...

THREE WEEKS! NO! I WANT IT NOW! AT ONCE! I'LL PAY YOU FIVE TIMES THE PRICE... BUT I MUST HAVE IT AT ONCE!
ER, ALL RIGHT, SIR! WE'LL DO OUR BEST! HOW MANY COPIES?

ONE! JUST ONE COPY!
ONE...PER...YES, SIR! ONE...!


THEY MUST HAVE ALL THOUGHT ME MAD, BUT I DIDN'T CARE! EVERYTHING WAS GOING AS I PLANNED IT... AN AIR-TIGHT SCHEME TO GET... YOU! I WAITED... AND WAITED!
ALL RIGHT, SIR! HERE IT IS! ONE COPY!
LET ME SEE IT! I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE IT LOOKS EXACTLY RIGHT!

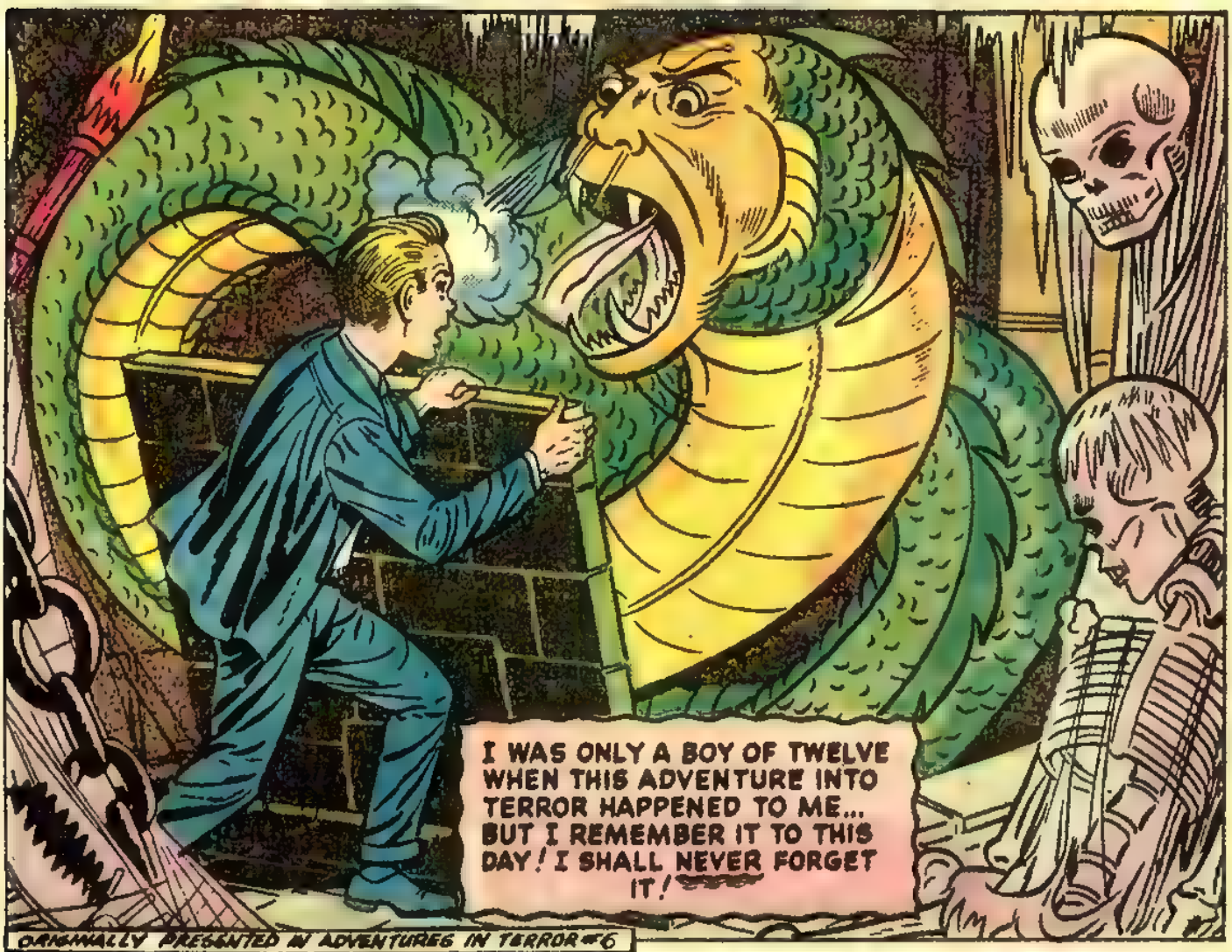
AH... GOOD! GOOD! IT'S PERFECT! JUST AS I WANT IT!
I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO BE OF SERVICE, SIR!

THE NEXT STEP WAS TO GO TO THE PLACE WHERE I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BUY THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE! THE DEALER DIDN'T SEE ME STEAL A COPY FROM HIS RACK...
ZINES
TERROR

CAREFULLY... I OPENED THE CLASPS THAT HELD THE PRINTED PAGES TOGETHER!
SUBWAY
TERROR
THEN... IN THE PAGES OF THIS VERY MAGAZINE .. THE ONE YOU'RE READING, I INSERTED MY OWN PAGES... THE ONES THAT I HAD MADE UP ONLY FOR YOU TO READ.
I REPLACED THE MAGAZINE, WITH MY SPECIAL PAGES, ON THE RACK... AND I WAITED! THEN YOU CAME... AND YOU BOUGHT IT... I WATCHED!
TERROR
NOW YOU ARE READING THIS... AND I AM RIGHT BEHIND YOU, WATCHING! YOU THINK IT'S JUST ANOTHER STORY, DON'T YOU? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ALL THIS, DO YOU?
NEXT
ALL RIGHT... DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S JUST ANOTHER STORY, EH? IT'S NOT TRUE.., ALL THIS I'VE BEEN SAYING? ALL RIGHT, THEN! DON'T BELIEVE IT! GO ON, TURN TO THE NEXT STORY... BUT I DARE YOU TO DO ONE THING... JUST ONE THING...
5
I SAID I WAS RIGHT BEHIND YOU, WAITING, WATCHING, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ESCAPE! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...? THEN... DON'T LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER!
ADVENTURES INTO TERROR
THE END

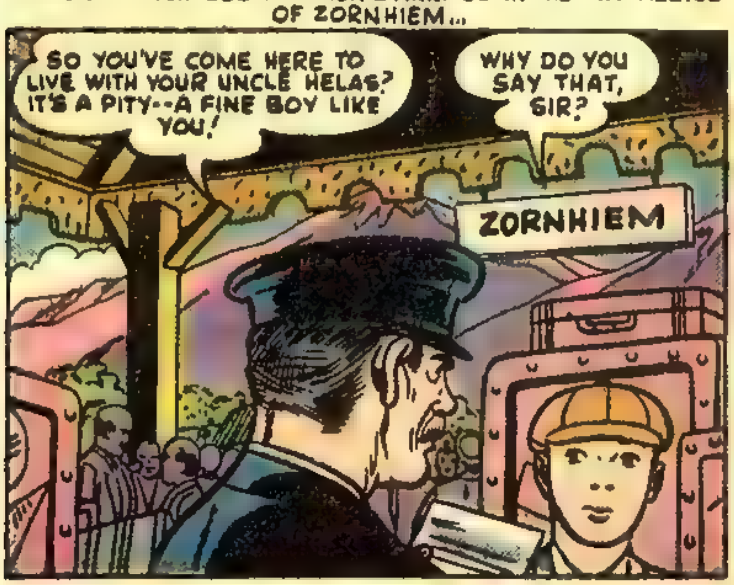
WAS IT REALITY OR NIGHTMARE? A FIGMENT OF IMAGINATION, OR THE SPAWN OF SOME HIDEOUS EVIL? THESE WERE THE QUESTIONS POUNDING IN ERIC'S BRAIN... QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS WERE TO BE FOUND ONLY IN...

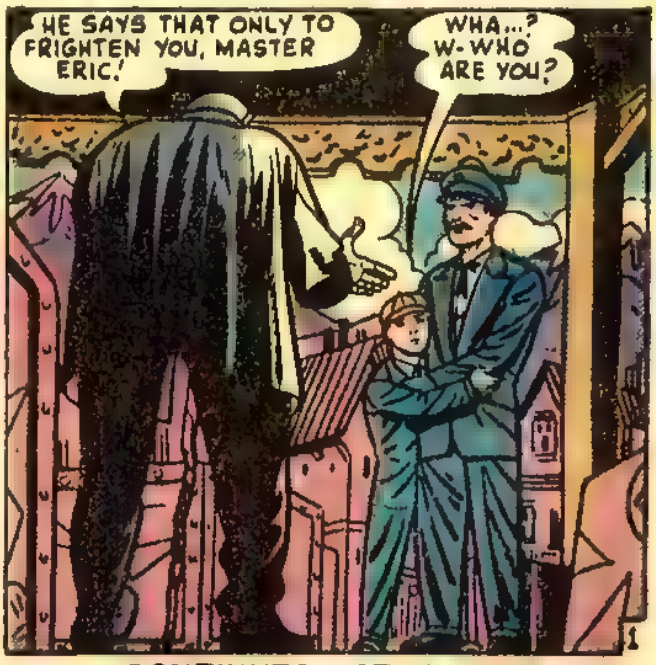
THE DARK ROOM!


I WAS ONLY A BOY OF TWELVE WHEN THIS ADVENTURE INTO TERROR HAPPENED TO ME... BUT I REMEMBER IT TO THIS DAY! I SHALL NEVER FORGET IT!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN ADVENTURES IN TERROR #6

THERE ARE MANY TALES OF HORROR, BUT NONE OF THEM CAN EQUAL THE TERRIFYING HAPPENINGS I AM ABOUT TO RELATE --ALL OF WHICH BEGAN WHEN I ARRIVED IN THE TINY VILLAGE OF ZORNHIEM...





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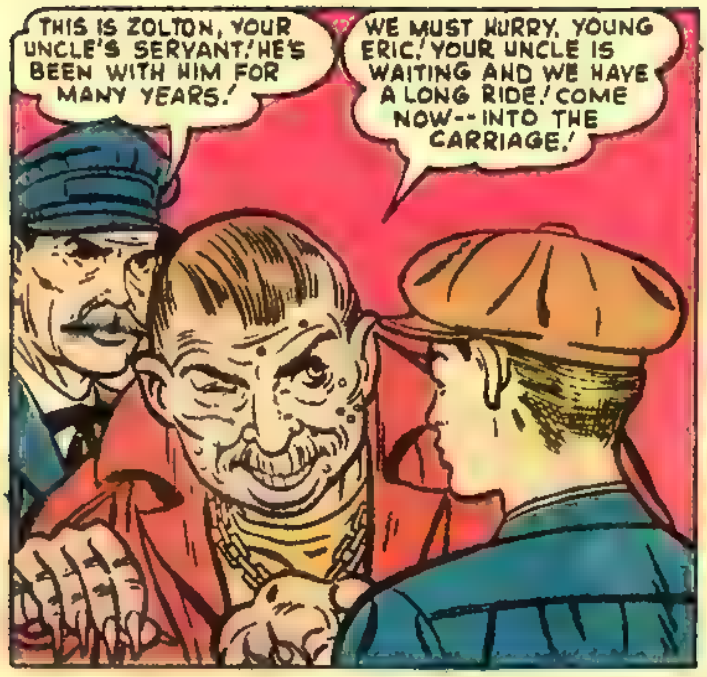
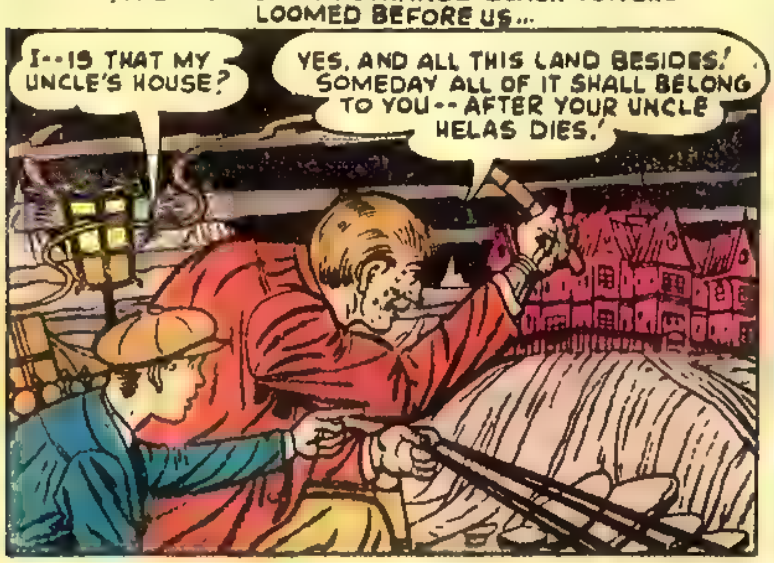

THIS IS ZOLTON, YOUR UNCLE'S SERVANT! HE'S BEEN WITH HIM FOR MANY YEARS.
WE MUST HURRY, YOUNG ERIC! YOUR UNCLE IS WAITING AND WE HAVE A LONG RIDE! COME NOW -- INTO THE CARRIAGE.

SEE THAT YOU KEEP YOUR UGLY FACE TURNED AWAY THROUGHOUT THE RIDE! YOU'VE FRIGHTENED HIM HALF TO DEATH AS IT IS!
HE SHALL GET OVER IT... IN TIME.
RAILROAD STATION

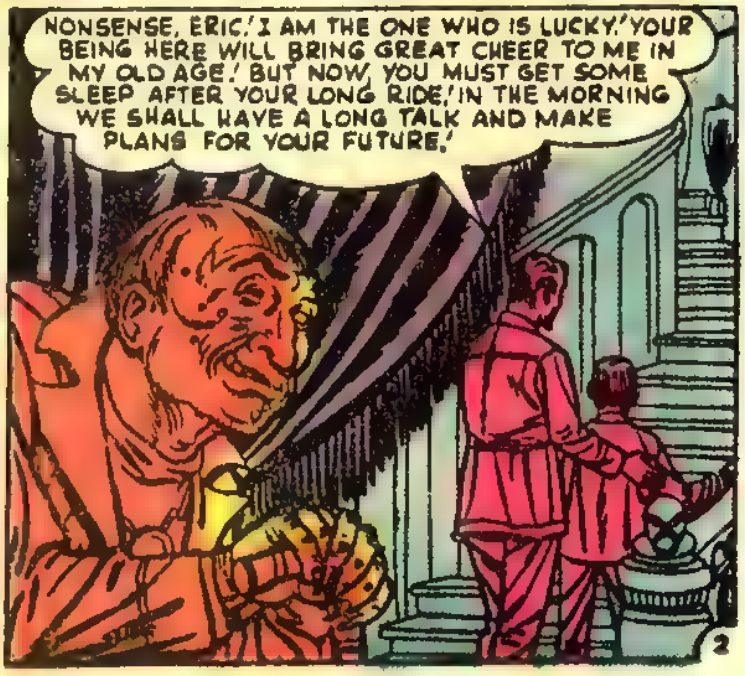
FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR, ZOLTON DROVE THE TEAM FORWARD UNDER THE CRUSHING BLOWS OF A HEAVY WHIP! THEN, AS THE MOON CAME OUT FROM BEHIND THE CLOUDS, A BUILDING WITH STRANGE BLACK TOWERS LOOMED BEFORE US...



I DON'T WANT MY UNCLE TO DIE! W-WHY DO YOU SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS?
I MEAN NO HARM, BUT DEATH WAITS FOR ALL OF US! ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE GRAVE, MASTER ERIC... INCLUDING YOUR OWN!

HIS WORDS STRUCK COLD FEAR INTO MY HEART, AND I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO QUESTION HIM FURTHER! WHEN WE ENTERED THE CASTLE A SHORT WHILE LATER, I WAS RELIEVED TO FIND MY UNCLE WAITING...

SO WE FINALLY MEET, ERIC! YOUR MOTHER'S PASSING ON, WAS A TRAGIC BLOW TO ME, DEAR BOY -- BUT I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO MAKE YOUR LIFE HERE A HAPPY ONE!
THANK YOU, UNCLE... IT'S VERY GOOD OF YOU TO HAVE ME!


NONSENSE, ERIC! I AM THE ONE WHO IS LUCKY! YOUR BEING HERE WILL BRING GREAT CHEER TO ME IN MY OLD AGE! BUT NOW, YOU MUST GET SOME SLEEP AFTER YOUR LONG RIDE! IN THE MORNING WE SHALL HAVE A LONG TALK AND MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE!
2

HOW LONG I SLEPT I CAN'T BE SURE.' BUT ALL AT ONCE I WAS AWAKE.' A PECULIAR MIST WAS SWIRLING THROUGH THE ROOM, AND THE CLAMMY TOUCH OF COLD FEAR PENETRATED ME TO THE CORE...

I'VE BEEN HAVING SOME KIND OF A NIGHTMARE, AS THOUGH SOMETHING HAD COME INTO THIS ROOM.' SOMETHING HIDEOUS... WITH BURNING EYES AND COILING...

THE THOUGHT HAD BARELY FLASHED THROUGH MY MIND, WHEN I HEARD A SLITHERING SOUND BEHIND ME.' I TURNED QUICKLY AND...

N-NO.' IT CAN'T BE.' I-I'M DREAMING THIS--IT ISN'T REAL.'

PANIC HURLED ME INTO MOTION, AND MY ONE THOUGHT WAS TO FLEE THE COILING, LOATHSOME HORROR.' I LEAPED FROM MY BED AND RACED TOWARDS THE OPEN WINDOW, BUT WHAT I SAW THERE BROUGHT ME TO A TERRIFYING HALT...

IT'S YOU.' KEEP AWAY FROM ME/UNCLE HELAS... COME QUICKLY... HELP.'

THE LAST THING I REMEMBERED WAS HIS STEPPING TOWARDS ME, AND THEN I PLUNGED HEADLONG INTO AN ABYSMAL PIT OF DARKNESS FROM WHICH THERE SEEMED NO RETURN...

THE NEXT THING I KNEW IT WAS MORNING, AND MY UNCLE WAS KNEELING BESIDE ME...

ERIC.. WHAT HAPPENED?

I--I DON'T KNOW.' IT WAS SOME KIND OF AWFUL NIGHTMARE.' THERE WAS A SNAKE WITH A TERRIBLE HEAD... AND THEN I SAW ZOLTON.' HE WAS IN THE ROOM.' I SCREAMED FOR HELP... THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.'

IT WAS ONLY A NIGHTMARE, BUT THAT STUPID SERVANT COULD HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF IT.' HE'S PROBABLY JEALOUS BECAUSE OF YOUR COMING HERE, AND ENTERED YOUR ROOM TO FRIGHTEN YOU.' BUT DON'T WORRY, ERIC... IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.'

I HOPE NOT, UNCLE HELAS-- IT WAS-T-TERRIBLE.'

THE BREAKFAST THAT MORNING WAS A SILENT ONE, AND ZOLTON AVOIDED MY UNCLE AND ME AS HE SERVED THE MEAL.' THEN, AS HE SLUNK OFF...

I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN TO HIM AND WARNED HIM ABOUT LAST NIGHT.' HE KNOWS THAT IF HE ENTERS YOUR ROOM AGAIN, IT WILL MEAN HIS POSITION.' I ONLY KEEP HIM AROUND BECAUSE HE'S BEEN HERE SO LONG.' NO ONE ELSE WILL HAVE HIM.'

I S-SUPPOSE NOT.'

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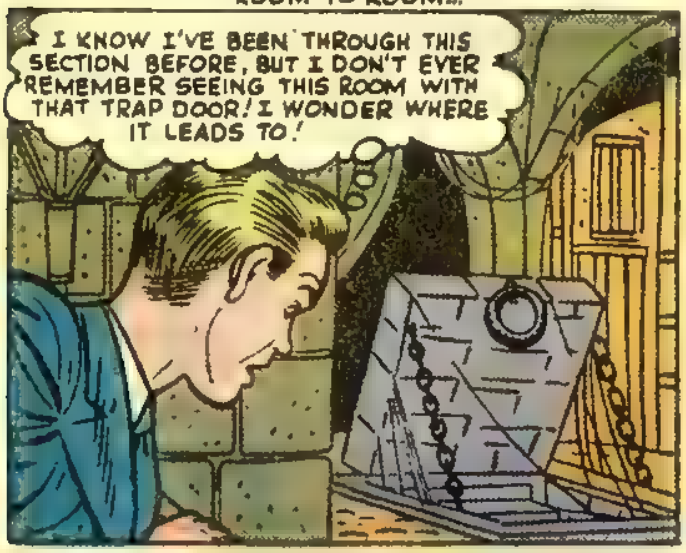
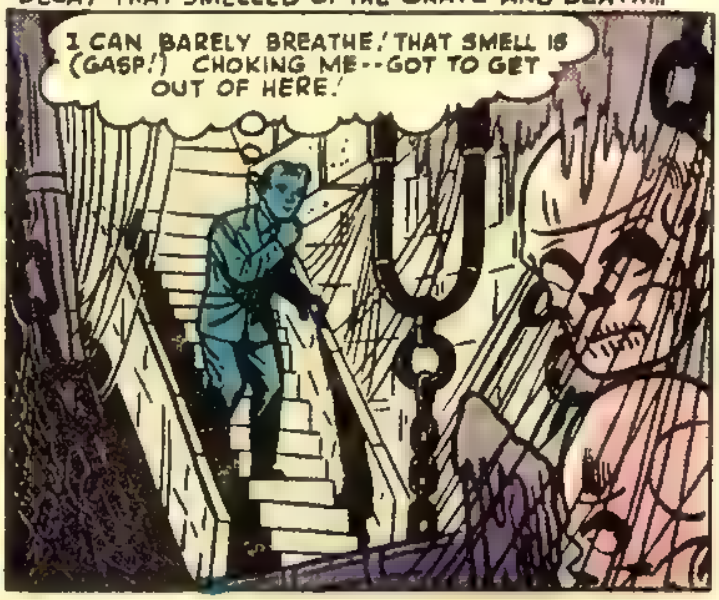
DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, ZOLTON STAYED CLEAR OF ME, AND SINCE MY UNCLE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN HIS LIBRARY I WAS PRETTY MUCH ON MY OWN! THEN, ONE AFTERNOON, AS I WANDERED FROM ROOM TO ROOM...


I KNOW I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS SECTION BEFORE, BUT I DON'T EVER REMEMBER SEEING THIS ROOM WITH THAT TRAP DOOR! I WONDER WHERE IT LEADS TO!

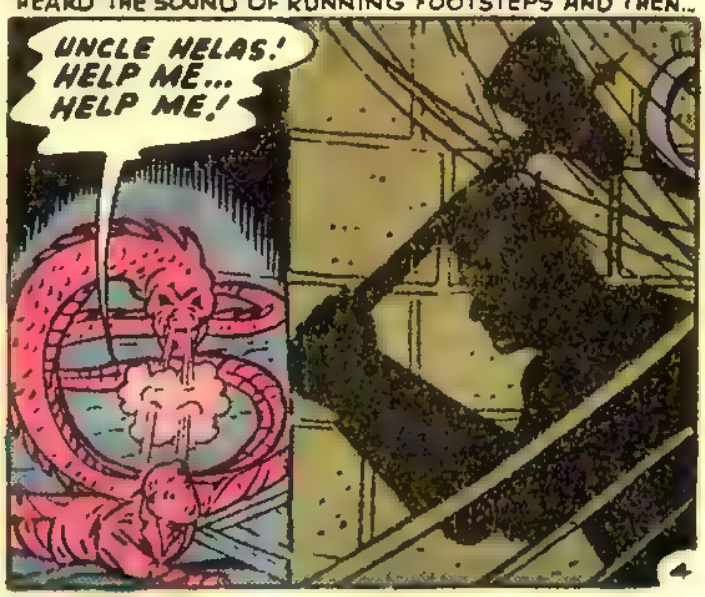
A FLIGHT OF STONE STAIRS LED INTO A SMALL ROOM, WHOSE DAMP, DANK WALLS GAVE OFF AN ODOR OF AGED DECAY THAT SMELLED OF THE GRAVE AND DEATH...



BUT AS I TURNED TO LEAVE..

BUT MY ESCAPE WAS SHORT LIVED! A MOMENT LATER, I WAS GRIPPED WITHIN THE CRUSHING COILS--THE BARED FANGS SEARCHING FOR MY THROAT..

A WALL OF DARKNESS SWAM BEFORE MY EYES AND MY KNEES BUCKLED, BUT AT THAT SAME INSTANT I HEARD THE SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS AND THEN..

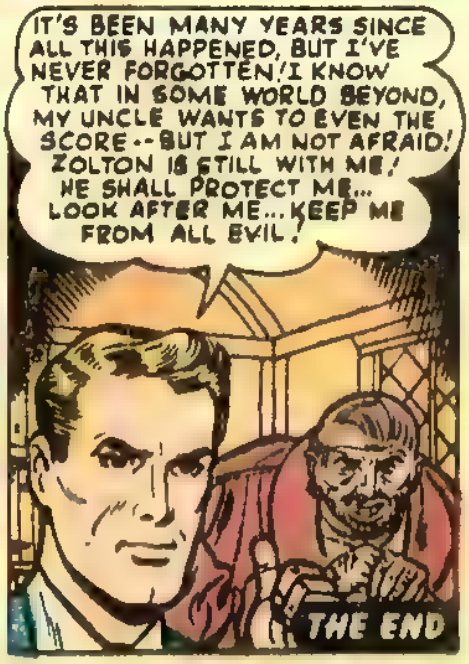


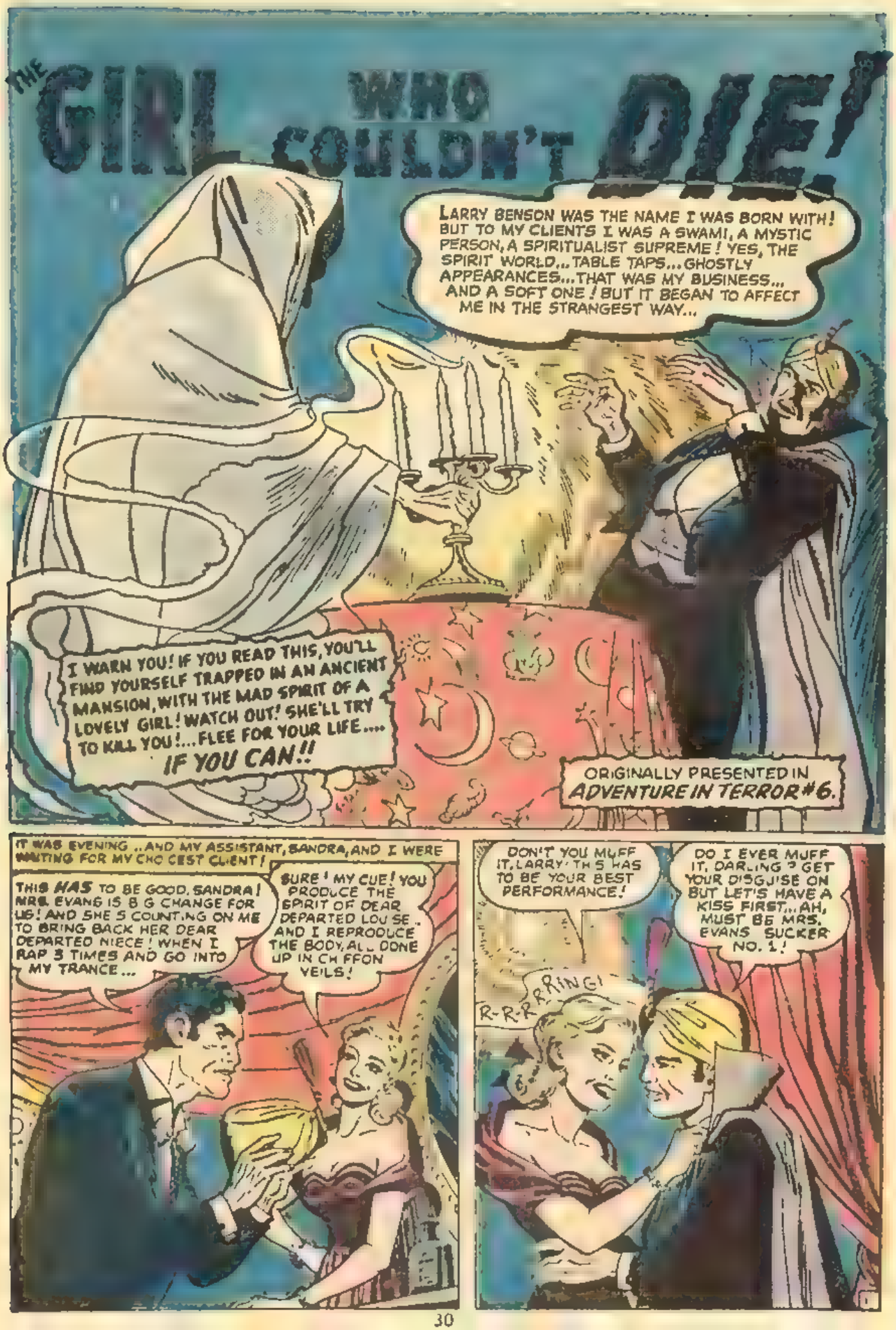
A MOMENT LATER THE BLADE SUNK INTO THE GRISLY FLESH, AND A GREEN STREAM OF LIQUID SPURTED INTO THE AIR! OVERCOME WITH NAUSEA AND DISGUST, I SHUT MY EYES AS MY BODY SLIPPED TO THE FLOOR...

BUT WHEN I OPENED MY EYES...

MY MIND WAS TOO FILLED WITH PANIC TO THINK! MY ONE DESIRE WAS TO FLEE THIS NEW MENACE THAT NOW STALKED TOWARD ME...

I TRIED TO SPARE YOU THIS, MASTER ERIC, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LET ME! IN HIS LAST YEARS YOUR UNCLE PRACTISED WITCHCRAFT AND DEVIL WORSHIP! I TRIED TO SAVE HIM, BUT IT WAS NO USE! WHEN HE TURNED ON YOU, I HAD TO END HIS EVIL FOR GOOD!
I WANT TO GO AWAY FROM HERE, ZOLTON... FAR AWAY!


IT'S BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE ALL THIS HAPPENED, BUT I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN! I KNOW THAT IN SOME WORLD BEYOND, MY UNCLE WANTS TO EVEN THE SCORE--BUT I AM NOT AFRAID! ZOLTON IS STILL WITH ME! HE SHALL PROTECT ME... LOOK AFTER ME... KEEP ME FROM ALL EVIL!
THE END


THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T DIE!
LARRY BENSON WAS THE NAME I WAS BORN WITH! BUT TO MY CLIENTS I WAS A SWAMI, A MYSTIC PERSON, A SPIRITUALIST SUPREME! YES, THE SPIRIT WORLD... TABLE TAPS... GHOSTLY APPEARANCES... THAT WAS MY BUSINESS... AND A SOFT ONE! BUT IT BEGAN TO AFFECT ME IN THE STRANGEST WAY...
I WARN YOU! IF YOU READ THIS, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF TRAPPED IN AN ANCIENT MANSION, WITH THE MAD SPIRIT OF A LOVELY GIRL! WATCH OUT! SHE'LL TRY TO KILL YOU!... FLEE FOR YOUR LIFE.... IF YOU CAN!!
ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN ADVENTURE IN TERROR #6.
IT WAS EVENING .. AND MY ASSISTANT, SANDRA, AND I WERE WAITING FOR MY CHOICEST CLIENT!
THIS HAS TO BE GOOD, SANDRA! MRS. EVANS IS A BIG CHANGE FOR US! AND SHE'S COUNTING ON ME TO BRING BACK HER DEAR DEPARTED NIECE! WHEN I RAP 3 TIMES AND GO INTO MY TRANCE...
SURE! MY CUE! YOU PRODUCE THE SPIRIT OF DEAR DEPARTED LOUISE.. AND I REPRODUCE THE BODY, ALL DONE UP IN CHIFFON VEILS!
DON'T YOU MUFF IT, LARRY! THIS HAS TO BE YOUR BEST PERFORMANCE!
DO I EVER MUFF IT, DARLING? GET YOUR DISGUISE ON BUT LET'S HAVE A KISS FIRST... AH, MUST BE MRS. EVANS SUCKER NO. 1!
R-R-R-RRING!

I WIPED SANDRA'S LIPSTICK FROM MY MOUTH AND ADMITTED MRS. EVANS TO MY MYSTIC DEN! I KNEW EVERY TRICK OF THE SPIRITUALIST GAME, AND COULD VARY MY VOICE FROM AN OLD MAN TO A YOUNG GIRL, AND USE IT LIKE A VENTRILOQUIST. I STARTED THE SÉANCE THE REVIVAL OF THE DEAD!
AH, SOMEONE FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD REACHES OUT TO YOU! SHE ASKS TO ENTER THE WORLD OF LIFE! SHE TELLS ME HER NAME IS LOUISE!
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
IMMEDIATELY I SANK INTO MY "TRANCE" AND CHANGED MY VOICE! MY ACT WAS SO GOOD I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS ONLY I TALKING, NOT THE SPIRIT OF LOUISE!
AUNT ALICE... AUNT ALICE... I'M COMING TO YOU.. ARE YOU IN THIS ROOM?
LOUISE... YES, DEAR, I M HERE! COME CLOSER, LET ME SEE YOU!
ON HER FIRST VISIT TO ME, MRS. EVANS SHOWED ME A PICTURE OF LOUISE AND I HAD SKETCHED IT FROM MEMORY FOR SANDRA! SANDRA MADE HERSELF UP TO MATCH IT, BRUNETTE WIG AND ALL.
THAT'S LOUISE! DEAR... ARE YOU HAPPY WHERE YOU ARE?
I'M HAPPY, AUNT ALICE! I OFTEN THINK OF OUR OLD HOUSE AND THE ROSES AND THE HOLLYHOCKS!
I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW! IT WAS SO GOOD SEEING YOU! GOODBYE, AUNT ALICE!
DON'T GO, LOUISE... LOUISE!
SHE'S GONE! BUT I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR BRINGING HER BACK TO ME, EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE! I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU THE $75,000 YOU SAID YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR TEMPLE OF SPIRITUALISM!
I AM THE ONE WHO'S GRATEFUL, MRS. EVANS!
TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE SAME TIME I SHALL BE HERE WITH THE MONEY. IF I CAN SEE LOUISE ONCE AGAIN, WILL YOU BRING HER BACK?
I'LL TRY I'M QUITE SURE I CAN RE ESTABLISH CONTACT!
$75,000 BUCKS! YOU BET LOUISE WILL BE BACK AGAIN! THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
I FEEL HIGH ALREADY! ALL THAT WONDERFUL MONEY!

THE MOST MIND-BOGGLING TEAM UP OF ALL—SPIDEY AND DOC SAVAGE! NOW ON SALE!

SANDRA AND I DID THE NIGHT CLUBS ! WE DANCED ON PINK CLOUDS, AND WINED ON CHAMPAGNE...
HOURS LATER I RETURNED HOME HEAVY FROM THE BUBBLY WINE, THE GLOWING THOUGHT OF THE MONEY! BUT SUDDENLY I WAS STARTLED OUT OF MY MELLOWNESS!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU'VE COME BACK! I'VE BEEN LONESOME WITHOUT YOU!
WHO'S THAT? WHO'S HERE?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? YOU BROUGHT ME TO LIFE! YOU BROUGHT ME OUT OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!
LOUISE! IT CAN'T BE YOU WERE A FAKE!
I'M REAL. A VERY REAL EMERGENCE FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD THROUGH YOU!
I NEVER MEANT TO! GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! I NEVER MEANT THIS!
I FLED OUT OF THE HOUSE! I NEEDED HELP! I HURRIED OVER TO SANDRA'S TO TELL HER OF LOUISE!
LARRY, WHAT AN IMAGINATION YOU HAVE! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T BRING BACK THE DEAD!
BUT I HAVE! SHE'S THERE IN MY HOUSE! WHEN I WENT INTO A TRANCE, I REALLY COMMUNICATED WITH THE SPIRIT WORLD!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE JUST A CLEVER FAKE! IT WAS THE CHAMPAGNE THAT WENT TO YOUR HEAD, AND THE PROSPECT OF $75 000! GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP, AND YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... THIS THING HAD ME CONFUSED!
ALL WAS QUIET AND NORMAL WHEN I RETURNED HOME! AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP I FORGOT THE STRANGE EXPERIENCE, AND BY NIGHT I WAS CALMLY, SMOOTHLY RECEIVING MRS. EVANS...
I HAVE THE MONEY IN MY PURSE! BUT FIRST BRING BACK LOUISE, AGAIN! PLEASE... I *MUST* SEE HER ONCE AGAIN!
PATIENCE... RELAX AND *THINK* OF HER, MRS. EVANS... I SHALL REACH OUT TO THE SPIRIT WORLD...

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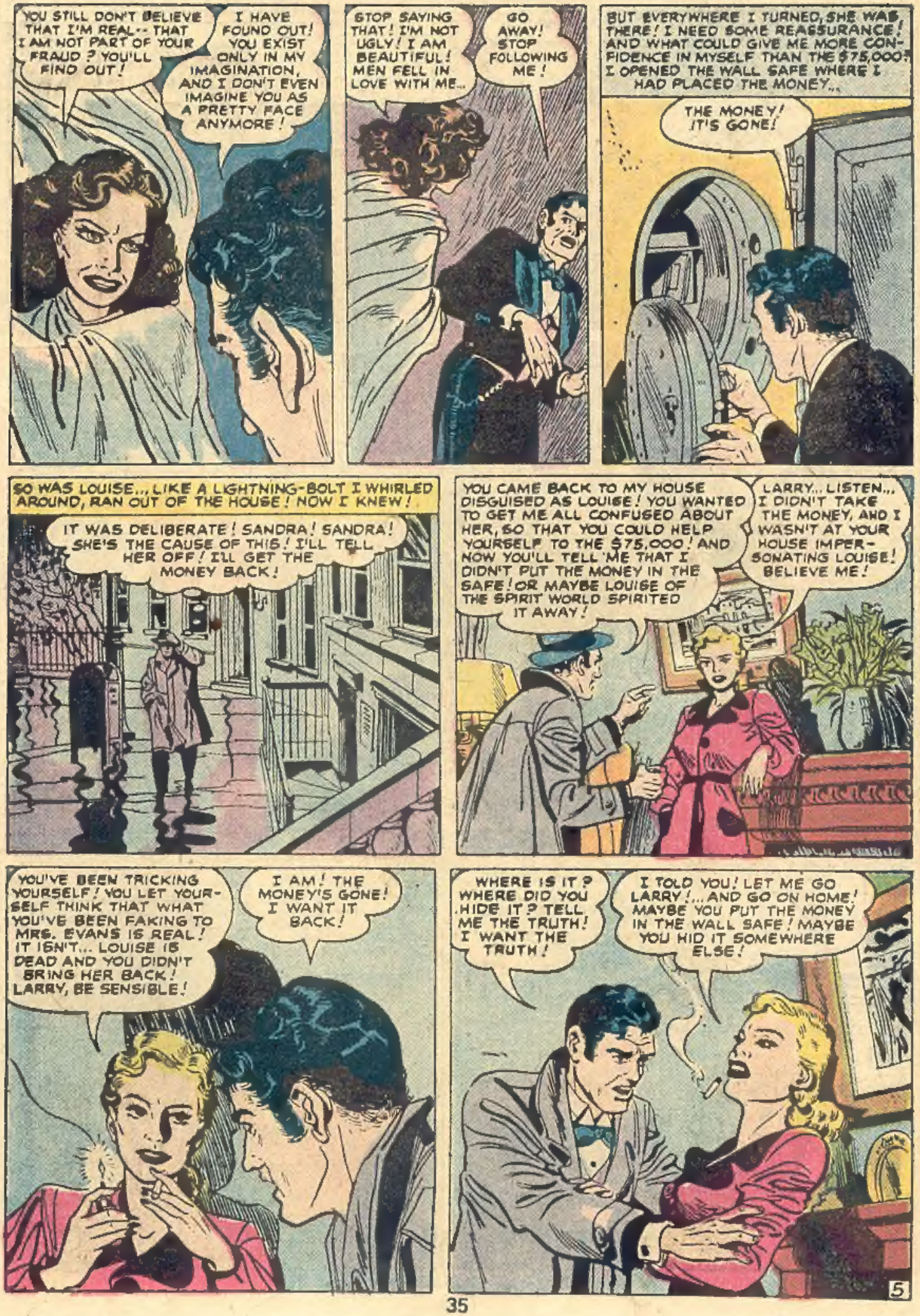
OF COURSE, I'D BRING BACK DEAR LOUISE! I WENT INTO ALL MY TRICKS, INTO MY TRANCE-LIKE STATE, AND SANDRA WAS READY WITH HER FAKERY...
AUNT ALICE... I'VE COME BACK! HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
I'M SO HAPPY, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE! BUT YOU LOOK QUITE SAD, DEAR! IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?
NO, AUNT ALICE! IT'S JUST THAT SOON I MUST LEAVE YOU AGAIN! YOU ARE MY KINDEST AUNT! YOU UNDERSTAND ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE! I THINK OF YOU KINDLY!
I WAS ALWAYS FOND OF YOU, DEAR... I WISH YOU COULD REMAIN!
THE "SPIRIT" THAT WAS SANDRA IN DISGUISE "VANISHED"... THAT VOICE THAT WAS MY IMPERSONATION STOPPED!
I AM CONTENT! TAKE THIS MONEY, BUILD YOUR TEMPLE OF SPIRITUALISM AND KEEP ON WITH YOUR SPLENDID WORK!
THANK YOU, MRS. EVANS! YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SPREAD THE BLESSINGS OF SPIRITUALISM... THANK YOU!
MRS. EVANS JUST LEFT... BUT NO THANKS TO YOU FOR THE $75,000! DID YOU WANT TO QUEER EVERYTHING? WHY DIDN'T YOU SMILE? THAT'S THE WAY MRS. EVANS LIKES TO SEE LOUISE!
I DID SMILE.. I THOUGHT I DID... EVERYTHING TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT! STOP PICKING ON ME AND PUT THE MONEY AWAY!
I'LL PUT THE MONEY IN THE SAFE, DON'T WORRY! EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT! RUN HOME AND PUT ON YOUR BEST BIB AND TUCKER... LAST NIGHT'S LITTLE CELEBRATION WAS NOTHING! TONIGHT WE'LL REALLY STEP OUT!
THAT'S MORE LIKE YOU, LARRY!
WE HAD MORE CHAMPAGNE THAN THE NIGHT BEFORE! WE SAW MORE SWANKY NIGHT CLUBS, DANCED ON BIGGER PINK CLOUDS! I WAS FEELING MIGHTY FINE-WHEN I GOT HOME... UNTIL...
HELLO, LARRY... HELLO, MR. SPIRITUALIST... THE MAN WHO BROUGHT ME BACK TO EARTH...
LOUISE! NO! YOU'RE NOT HERE! NOT AGAIN!


YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE THAT I'M REAL -- THAT I AM NOT PART OF YOUR FRAUD ? YOU'LL FIND OUT !
I HAVE FOUND OUT! YOU EXIST ONLY IN MY IMAGINATION, AND I DON'T EVEN IMAGINE YOU AS A PRETTY FACE ANYMORE !
STOP SAYING THAT ! I'M NOT UGLY ! I AM BEAUTIFUL ! MEN FELL IN LOVE WITH ME...
GO AWAY! STOP FOLLOWING ME !
BUT EVERYWHERE I TURNED, SHE WAS THERE ! I NEED SOME REASSURANCE ! AND WHAT COULD GIVE ME MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF THAN THE $75,000 ? I OPENED THE WALL SAFE WHERE I HAD PLACED THE MONEY...
THE MONEY ! IT'S GONE !
SO WAS LOUISE... LIKE A LIGHTNING-BOLT I WHIRLED AROUND, RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE ! NOW I KNEW !
IT WAS DELIBERATE ! SANDRA ! SANDRA ! SHE'S THE CAUSE OF THIS ! I'LL TELL HER OFF ! I'LL GET THE MONEY BACK !
YOU CAME BACK TO MY HOUSE DISGUISED AS LOUISE ! YOU WANTED TO GET ME ALL CONFUSED ABOUT HER, SO THAT YOU COULD HELP YOURSELF TO THE $75,000 ! AND NOW YOU'LL TELL ME THAT I DIDN'T PUT THE MONEY IN THE SAFE ! OR MAYBE LOUISE OF THE SPIRIT WORLD SPIRITED IT AWAY !
LARRY... LISTEN... I DIDN'T TAKE THE MONEY, AND I WASN'T AT YOUR HOUSE IMPERSONATING LOUISE ! BELIEVE ME !
YOU'VE BEEN TRICKING YOURSELF ! YOU LET YOURSELF THINK THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FAKING TO MRS. EVANS IS REAL ! IT ISN'T... LOUISE IS DEAD AND YOU DIDN'T BRING HER BACK ! LARRY, BE SENSIBLE !
I AM ! THE MONEY'S GONE ! I WANT IT BACK !
WHERE IS IT ? WHERE DID YOU HIDE IT ? TELL ME THE TRUTH ! I WANT THE TRUTH !
I TOLD YOU ! LET ME GO LARRY !... AND GO ON HOME ! MAYBE YOU PUT THE MONEY IN THE WALL SAFE ! MAYBE YOU HID IT SOMEWHERE ELSE !
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GO HOME AND LOOK AGAIN! WITH ALL THIS BUSINESS OF IMAGINING YOU ACTUALLY SAW LOUISE, YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN WHERE YOU HID THE MONEY! WE NEED THAT MONEY! I'M WAITING NOW FOR A CALL FROM A REAL ESTATE MAN ABOUT A PLACE FOR OUR "TEMPLE"!
YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO PERSUADE ME, SANDRA... I'LL GO HOME!
COULD SANDRA BE RIGHT? THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LOUISE NOW! I CALMED, I COULD THINK THINGS OUT AND I REMEMBERED NOT THE WALL SAFE, BUT MY STRONG BOX!
IT'S HERE! IT'S ALL HERE! SANDRA WAS RIGHT!
I OUGHT TO TAKE A VACATION BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH THE TEMPLE OF SPIRITUALISM! MY KIND OF WORK HAS SHOT MY NERVES... HOW... WHAT'S THAT?
CRASH!
ONLY THE NEIGHBORHOOD CAT... I CERTAINLY AM JUMPY... I'D BETTER GET AWAY FOR AWHILE! NOW WHO'S THAT?
R-R-R-R-R-R
IT WAS SANDRA...
LARRY, I'M OUT AT A MANSION, "THE BLEAKERS" IN BLOOMSDALE, 21 BLOOMSDALE ROAD... THE REAL ESTATE DEALER SENT ME THERE! COME AND HAVE A LOOK AT IT... I'LL WAIT... AND THE MONEY?
FOUND IT! BLOOMSDALE'S A SHORT TRAIN RIDE! I'M ON MY WAY!
I WAS WHISTLING JAUNTILY AS I STRODE INTO THE STATION, AND I PRACTICALLY COLLIDED WITH AN OLD FRIEND...
LARRY! LONG TIME NO SEE! WHERE ARE YOU BOUND FOR?
"THE BLEAKERS"... A MANSION IN BLOOMSDALE... MAY REBUILD IT AS A NEW TEMPLE OF SPIRITUALISM... SEE YOU, TONY!
TRACK 18
45 MINUTES LATER I WAS APPROACHING "THE BLEAKERS..."
HOUSE IS COMPLETELY DARK... FUNNY., SANDRA SHOULD BE HERE WAITING... WELL MAYBE IT LOOKS DARK BECAUSE THE SHADES ARE ALL DRAWN TIGHT!

KAZARI A LIVING SACRIFICE TO THE TERRIBLE RIVER-GODS! ON SALE NOW!

I TRIED THE DOOR, IT WAS OPEN AND I STEPPED IN! THERE WERE NO LIGHTS ON BUT A FIRE WAS CRACKLING IN A HUGE HEARTH...
SANDRA! SANDRA! NOT HERE... GUESS I'D BETTER ANSWER THAT PHONE!
HELLO... HELLO...
LARRY... SANDRA... I MET TONY JUST NOW, HE TOLD ME YOU HAD GONE OUT TO "THE BLEAKERS" IN BLOOMSDALE, SO I LOOKED UP THE NUMBER! LARRY, YOU MUST GET AWAY QUICKLY!
BUT WHY? YOU PHONED ME AT HOME, AND TOLD ME TO MEET YOU HERE!
I DIDN'T! LARRY, IT'S HER WAY... LOUISE'S TRICKERY! I FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT HER, HER PAST! MRS. EVANS WANTED TO REMEMBER HER AS GOOD, SO SHE BLOTTED OUT THE EVIL OF LOUISE!
LOUISE WAS A MURDERESS! SHE DIED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR FOR THE MURDER OF A MAN SHE LURED TO "THE BLEAKERS," AND KILLED WITH AN AXE!
HELLO, LARRY!
I'VE BEEN WAITING, LARRY! THE BLEAKERS IS A LOVELY PLACE, ISN'T IT? IT HOLDS SO MANY MEMORIES FOR ME! AND IT WILL HOLD MORE WHEN I...
WHEN YOU... WHAT?
7
I KNEW AS A BLADE GLITTERED IN HER HAND! TERRIFIED, I TRIED TO FLEE FROM THIS EVIL THING I HAD RESURRECTED FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD! BUT SHE HAD ME TRAPPED!
...WHEN I KILL YOU!
HAVE PITY! HAVE REASON!
BUT A MURDERESS KNOWS NO REASON... ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT MURDERESS HAS ONCE BEEN EXECUTED!... THIS EVIL THING AND HER SHARP GLEAMING AXE BLADE CAME NEARER... NEARER..
AAGGHH!
THE END